**Improvement in working conditions**

2662. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific schemes have been brought to improve the working conditions in heavy industries; and

(b) the details of schemes that are in existence for the benefit of employees of heavy industries of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no classification of Industry as 'Heavy'. However so far as the PSEs under the Department of Heavy Industry are concerned, some of the recent schemes for the benefit of employees in PSEs relate to wage revision in profit making PSEs, 50% DA merger in CDA pattern PSEs payment of ex-gratia amount for VRS retirees who had not been given pay scale revision either in 1992 or in 1997 etc. Detailed guidelines in respect of running of Public Sector Enterprises are available on the website of the Department of Public Enterprises.

**Navaratna status to NALCO**

2663. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NALCO has been approaching Government for giving the status of Navaratna for the three years;

(b) whether the same has not been granted though the company has scored more than 60 as per the set parameter fixed for this purpose; if so, the specific reasons therefor; and

(c) the comparative evaluation of Government and NALCO management on the six indicators of performance benchmarked by Department of public Enterprises (DPE) for granting status of Navaratna?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The proposal for grant of Navaratna Status to National Aluminum Company Limited (NALCO) received from Ministry of Mines is under consideration.